

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ADANA 00238 131130Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 DODE-00
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O 130900Z OCT 77

FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1297

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

TUSLOG DET 33-3 ISKENDERUN TK IMMEDIATE

COMSCMED NAPLES IT IMMEDIATE

COMSCELM BREMERHAVEN IMMEDIATE ATTN E3

UNCLAS ADANA 238

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO MSC COMMANDER WASHDC ATTN: M-10; ALSO USCG

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CGEN, EWWT

SUBJECT: CONSULAR VISIT TO USNS SEALIFT CARIBBEAN

1. ON 11 OCTOBER 1977 THIRD MATE RANDOLPH BAUM CAME TO THE
CONSULATE TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING AN ADEQUATE
MEDICAL EXAMINATION WHICH HE CLAIMED THE SHIP'S MASTER,
RICHARD TRAVERS, HAD HINDERED IN TWO PREVIOUS PORTS. USNS
SEALIFT CARIBBEAN OPERATED BY MARINE TRANSPORT LINES AND
REPORTEDLY ON LONG TERM CHARTER TO MSC, IS CURRENTLY
DISCHARGING OIL AT THE NATO PIER IN ISKENDERUN.

PAGE 2 RUFLEPA4311 UNCLAS

2. THE POST ASSISTED BAUM IN OBTAINING A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AT
THE INCIRLIK AIR BASE HOSPITAL. THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN FOUND
BAUM UNFIT FOR DUTY DUE TO ACUTE ULCERS.
3. ON 12 OCTOBER A CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED THE SHIP TO INSURE
THAT MANNING REQUIREMENTS WERE BEING MET SINCE BAUM HAD STATED
THAT THE SHIP WAS BEING OPERATED WITH A MINIMUM CREW.
THE CONSULAR OFFICER WITNESSED THE CAPTAIN SIGN HIMSELF IN THE
OFFICIAL LOG TO STAND SEA WATCH IN PLACE OF THIRD MATE BAUM.

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PAGE 02 ADANA 00238 131130Z

4. DURING THE VISIT, THE CONSULAR OFFICER ALSO TALKED AT
LENGTH WITH CHIEF MATE KIM MAGNUSON WHO HAD ALSO SOUGHT
MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR KIDNEY PROBLEMS. INCIRLIK DOCTORS FOUND
MAGNUSON TEMPORARILY FIT FOR DUTY AND PUT HIM ON MEDICATION.
HE WISHES, HOWEVER, TO LEAVE THE SHIP AT ITS NEXT PORT,
REPORTEDLY SICILY. MAGNUSON ALSO DESCRIBED THE CIRCUMSTANCES
OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR ANOTHER CREW MEMBER,

A.B.S. TOMISON, WHO WAS REMOVED FROM THE SHIP ON 12 OCTOBER AND WHO IS NOW AT THE INCIRLIK BASE HOSPITAL. TOMISON'S KNEE WAS REPORTEDLY FRACTURED BY A SNAPPING WINCH CABLE DURING DOCKING. MAGNUSON AND BAUM INDICATED A BELIEF THAT CAPTAIN TRAVERS WAS NOT PAYING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO MEDICAL PROBLEMS ON BOARD.

PAGE 3 RUFLEPA4311 UNCLAS

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH CAPTAIN TRAVERS, THE CONSULAR OFFICER WAS ASSURED THAT THE SHIP WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE COMPANY ON 13 OCTOBER TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN TWO OFFICERS AND A SEAMAN IN SICILY TO REPLACE BAUM, TOMISON, AND MAGNUSON.

6. ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO COMMUNICATE WITH MARINE TRANSPORT LINES TO ENSURE THAT THE COMPANY HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF THESE HEALTH PROBLEMS.

VON DEN STEINEN

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